GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:306
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of children in Indian cities suffer from malnutrition;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of States where incidence of malnutrition is very high;

(c) the factors responsible therefor;

(d) the details of the efforts being made by the Government to eradicate nutritional deficiency in the children; and

(e) the funds released for the purpose during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT.PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The State Wise Details are at annexure-I.

(c) The reasons are multi factorial,viz.,food insecurity,female illiteracy and poor access to health-care, safe drinking water, sanitation and poor purchasing power.

(d) Ministry of Women & Child Development is implementing the following schemes to address the problem of malnutrition:

Integrated Child Development Scheme

Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls in 51 districts to provide free food grains to undernourished adolescent girls and pregnant and nursing mother

Nutrition Education and Training Programmes of Food and Nutrition Board.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is also implementing the following schemes to improve the nutritional status of children under Reproductive and Child Health(RCH-II) Programme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) including:

Maternal Health by promoting institutional deliveries, improved coverage and quality of ante natal care (ANC),skilled care to pregnant women, Post- partum care at Community level.

Immunization

Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses

Emphasis on Infant & Young Child Feeding

Specific Programmes to prevent micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron & Folic Acid through Vitamin A Supplementation for children till the age of 5 years and Iron & Folic Acid Supplementation,for preschool children, pregnant and lactatingwomen.

National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme

e) The details are at annexure-II.